



Report to COMSTAC of the Infrastructure Working Group

Presented to: COMSTAC

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Necessary Facilities Tasker

What are the necessary facilities that should be covered by a site operator's license i.e. how much regulatory authority should AST have over facilities and operations within the boundaries of a launch or reentry site that are unrelated to preparing a launch or reentry vehicle for space flight? If none, how should these situations be handled?

Some licensed launch/reentry sites have facilities within the site boundaries that may not be related to spaceflight. Should a launch or reentry site operator be responsible for:

- Conducting an analysis of the environmental impacts associated with unrelated facilities and operations;
- Following quantity-distance criteria or providing an explosive site plan for locations on the launch or reentry site with only unrelated facilities and where only unrelated operations take place;
- Preventing unauthorized access to locations on the launch or reentry site with only unrelated facilities and where only unrelated operations take place;
- Notifying safety rules and emergency and evacuation procedures to anyone entering locations on the launch or reentry site with only unrelated facilities and where only unrelated operations take place;
- Scheduling unrelated operations, unless they impact the safe preparation of a launch or reentry vehicle for flight, or the return of a launch or reentry vehicle to a safe condition on the ground after landing; and
- Reporting, responding to, or investigating unplanned events occurring during unrelated activities resulting in a fatality or serious injury to any person who is not associated with the activity, or any damage estimated to exceed \$25,000 to property not associated with the activity.

Necessary Facilities

Observation

- COMSTAC observes that some licensed launch/reentry sites have facilities within the site boundaries that are unrelated to preparing a launch or reentry vehicle for space flight.
 - Spaceports and airports coexist in some areas
 - Spaceports can conduct static fires
 - Spaceports can include lodging facilities

Finding

- COMSTAC finds that there is a need to determine how much regulatory authority AST should have over facilities and operations within the boundaries of a launch or reentry site that are unrelated to preparing a launch or reentry vehicle for space flight.

Recommendation

- COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST only have authority over necessary facilities.
- COMSTAC recommends “necessary facilities” be defined as operational facilities necessary to prepare a launch or reentry vehicle for flight, perform the launch operation, and/or return a launch or reentry vehicle to a safe condition on the ground after landing.
- COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST not have authority over any facilities that are not considered necessary facilities.